

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0404

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3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BENC, WZ

SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORTS PROJECTS PROGRAM

REF: STATE A-4217

1. SWAZILAND: MPAKA AIRPORT, MBABANE A-23.

IN DISCUSSION WITH JOHNATHAN MAYAGULA, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF WORKS, POWER AND COMMUNICATION, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT THE PROPOSED AIRPORT PROJECT IS STILL STRONGLY DESIRED BY GOS BUT THEY HAVE NOT SECURED ANY FINANCING WHATSOEVER. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR THE AIRPORT TO BE BUILT IN STAGES, EVENTUALLY HAVING THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE CONCORDE SIZE PLANES.

2. SWAZILAND: THERMAL POWER PROJECT; MBABANE 1142.

MYAGULA ALSO STATED THAT GOS HAS NOT SECURED SUFFICIENT FINANCING TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THERMAL POWER PLANT. THE GOS WOULD LIKE RSA TO PUT UP APPROXIMATELY R40 MILLION OUT OF A NEEDED R60 MILLION. CURRENTLY NEGOTIATIONS ARE ONGOING FOR A LONG TERM LOAN OF R30 MILLION (DOLS \$34,566,000) AT 4 PERCENT INTEREST.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION HERE, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT BOTH PROJECTS ARE STILL FAR INTO THE FUTURE.

WACHOB

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